G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

1898.

~~191~~ ..

(Sanitary)

Later references.

File No. 88.

Serial Nos. 1-6

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos.

~~Part~~ B for

SUBJECT.

Gunjam and Bhimballapur Riots re plague

Inse
N. Hussain

W D 88—GPB—50,000—24-7-16

1

Memo.

The Ganjam and Chikballapur riots were due ~~mainly~~ to the deep seated prejudice of the people against segregation & other plague measures, which, unfortunately, was intensified at Ganjam by the foolish pranks of the local sanitary Inspector named Aiyar who is said to have been frightening people by stating that the disinfectants with him were poisonous, and ~~putting them into wells &c~~

1. Ganjam riots.

On the 9th ultimo the Amildar received information that people at Ganjam were collecting in groups and talking about the poisoning; and on the following morning (10th inst.) he went to Ganjam with the Police Inspector, had some of the leading men brought to him and explained to them what the real intentions of the Govt. were in enforcing segregation rules. Scarcely had he done this when information was received that about twenty persons had collected at the Plague Sheds at Ganjam to prevent the cremation of a man who had come from Bangalore & died there the previous day

2nd to gross misapprehension of ~~intention of the Govt~~ the object of these measures

the mob soon increased in numbers
and declaring that the patients in
the hospitals were being poisoned
to death, assaulted the Sanitary
Inspector, the Compounders and
the ambulance staff on duty
as well as the Duffedar and
Constables sent to see the body of
the deceased cremated. They then
removed the corpse to the Cemetery
with the view of sinking it in the
water of the river; and on hearing
of this, the Amildar started again
to Sanjan with the Inspector
and others, to get the leading men
of the place to persuade the
mob not to take such a suicidal
step. But before the men could
be brought together a number of
persons came from the direction
of Kuria pelting stones, and
soon a large mob armed with
clubs and pelting stones, moved
towards the Amildar and his
party, pursuing them to the
very gates of the Daria dowlat
garden, in which they took shelter.
The Inspector, the Sub-Assistant Surgeon
and a few others received some injury.
The mob then went in groups in
all directions in search of the
obnoxious Sanitary Inspector, and a
party of them consisting of about
three

three or four hundred men went to the Railway Station premises and not finding the man he[re] in any of the rooms there, proceeded by road to French Rocks in quest of him. The plague medl and the Sub Assts' Surgeon's carriage were destroyed by the mob and it is said they went about with rags and Kerosine oil to set fire to the Sanitary Depot if caught. The Deputy Commr of Mysore who was wired to for help sent silledars from Mysore, and on their arrival at about 5-30 P.M. the mob dispersed and the officials who had found shelter in the Dasa dowlat-bag were escorted to their homes.

The Deputy Commr arrived at Seringapatam by a special train the same evening at about 7-30 P.M. with an additional party of Reserve Police and some Barr Sepoys, and arranged for the patrols of both Ganjam and Seringapatam. He however decided not to proceed at once to make arrests as there was still a strong feeling of unrest in the town and the injured persons were not in a fit condition to go about

and point out the rioters.

So strong was the feeling against the Sanitary Inspector Augustus that two days later, i.e. on the 12th Idem, another angry mob surrounded him up to the door of the Sub-Divn. Officers' house at French Rocks and only retreated on ~~finding~~ seeing him take shelter therein.

The Inspector General of Police arrived at Seringapatam on the 14th Idem, but refrained from taking steps to arrest the rioters, against some of whom evidence had been collected, as the local authorities were all of opinion that any attempt then to arrest any of the rioters might lead to a serious disturbance

The Plague Commissioner arrived at Mysore on the 16th Idem and urged immediate action being taken against the rioters. Accordingly the Inspector General of Police and the Deputy Commr. planned their operations secretly on the 17th Idem and left Mysore for Seringapatam at 3 P.M. on the 18th with a body of

5

of 60 Local Silledars and 40
Sowars of the Imperial Service
Lancers and all the available
Reserve Police force. Arriving at
Ganjam by 5.4½m they made
their dispositions of the Silledars
and Policemen to guard the
different routes leading into
Ganjam as well as the fords
in the Cauvery, and by 10 A½m
arrested 53 of the accused persons
and marched them under a
strong escort to the vicinity of the
Jamabandi Bungalo.

The able bodied men of the
place had however escaped into
the neighbouring fields in the
course of the above preparations
and within about half an
hour after the arrests they turned
out with large accessions,
estimated to be more than 1000
~~men~~ armed with clubs, pick
axes, hatchets, swords &c,
and advanced towards the
Bungalo with the evident
intention of overawing the
authorities and rescuing
the prisoners. On their way
they attacked the Police Inspector
and a few others who were going
to the Bungalo and hit them
with stones. The District Magistrate

then

ordered Risaldar Ramanajun of the Imperial Service Lancers to proceed with his Lancers & some Silledars and prevent the further advance of the mob. The Risaldar accordingly went, and ordered the mob to disperse, but they paid no heed and pelted him and his men with stones. The mob began to swell and became more unruly, and as the situation of the Risaldar & his men became critical the District Magistrate authorised him to open fire as a last resort. At first a volley was fired high into the air and the mob began to retreat, but they soon found out that no injury had been caused and returned, more infuriated and unruly. The Risaldar had then to shoot at the mob with the result that one or two of them were killed. ~~& then dispersed~~ The mob were still persistent and when repulsed on one side formed themselves in another, but by riding at them and into them the Risaldar succeeded in dispersing them.

About the same time another armed mob came up from the neighbouring villages on the Mysore side. At the Mysore bridge the Police constables were overpowered and the Police Inspector who received a stone-hit on the chest was found missing for some time

The.

The local Cavalry force also found itself unable to stand. The Imperial Service Lancers under ~~the~~ Risaldar Chamanayen were sent there and they succeeded in repelling the mob by opening fire.

While the authorities were thus engaged, another tumultuous crowd consisting of the bad characters of Seringapatam were seen rushing from the fort, similarly armed, to join the rioters of Sanjay. The Police met them and forced them to retreat by opening fire, but the men re-assembled on the ramparts.

It was then 1-30 P.M. and for two hours everything seemed quiet. At 3-30 P.M. another armed mob numbering between three and four thousand and vowing vengeance on the authorities, forced their way to the Wellesley Bridge in spite of the resistance offered by the Silledar guard posted there. The Imperial Service Lancers and Silledars were sent to re-inforce the guard, ~~they~~ but they met with sustained opposition. It was not until by repeated firing two or three were killed, that the mob evacuated the bridge, but even then they assembled on the opposite bank and a few of the more daring among them ~~fell~~ plunged into the water to swim to the ~~other~~ island with their sticks. They were prevented from coming up and a few who

had advanced too far to retreat were, on their reaching the bank, arrested with their clubs.

Matters quieted down till about 5 P.M. when another large mob was seen nearing the Pachimvahini bridge on the Mysore-Seringapatam road. It was also successfully dispersed.

Arrangements were at once made to run a special train to Bangalore and the prisoners arrested whose number now amounted to 121 were ~~sent~~ marched off to Bangalore at 7-15 P.M. the same evening. They arrived in Bangalore at 2 A.M. on the 19th and were lodged at the Central Jail. They are now undergoing trial at Bangalore.

Evidence is forthcoming to show that the villagers around Seringapatam had entered into a conspiracy to oppose plague measures and join in any attack on Govt. Officials. Excluding Ganjam & Seringapatam 45 villages are said to have taken part in the conspiracy 2 in the riots that ensued, and the Govt. have ordered a punitive police being quartered in four centres besides Ganjam & Seringapatam. The names of all the agitators are not yet known. ~~A further report will be made at the conclusion of the trials now proceeding.~~ but some information on this point is expected to be obtained in the course of

9

Re Chikballapur riot

A case of plague having occurred in the house of a Muhammedan at Chikballapur, the Amildar proceeded to have the house disinfected whereupon a mob collected, opposed the disinfection and forced the Amildar to retreat to his own house. They then went to the ~~Cha~~ Segregation Chatram, released the persons segregated in it, and burnt the tatties of the Chatram & the registers kept there. From there they went back to the Amildar's house, indulged themselves in threats & filthy language & then dispersed.

This was on the evening of the 16th ultimo. About a week before this certain local authorities had been assaulted by a mob at Sidlaghatta, but they themselves forbearance and took no further notice of it. This apparently emboldened the badmashes of Chikballapur to resort to graver acts of violence and it is shown that they had the sympathy & support of the municipal officials & the Revenue & Police departments.

The next morning (17th ultimo), Mr. S. V. Ramaswami Iyengar, Acting Civil Surgeon Bangalore, went to Chikballapur under orders of the Senior Surgeon & inoculate those who were willing & submit to the operation, an application from some of the inhabitants

of the place having been received in this behalf. As the doctor was ~~passed~~ walking through one of the streets of the town on his way to the Sub Div^n Off^rs bungalo a man ascertained what he had come for and cried out that a doctor had come from Bangalore to inoculate - At once a crowd came up assaulted the doctor and opposing his further advance put him in his cart, drove him back for some distance out of the town and there destroyed his things, and burnt the top of the cart ~~to~~ ~~minimise disinfection~~. They next ~~proceeded the streets sounding~~ returned to the town in triumph & ~~bugles or horns and beating drums~~ to their homes - ~~then~~ dispersed. All this took place so suddenly, and apparently with the connivance of subordinate Police & revenue officials that the Sub Div^n Off^r and Amildar who were ~~elsewhere concerning~~ meanwhile to arrest the rioters of the previous evening, got no ~~timely~~ intimation of the occurrence until the Doctor had been conducted to leave the town in the way above described

~~After~~ the same evening ~~a certain demonstration was made by the mob~~ when the Sub Div^n Off^r collected some Policemen with arms & ammunition ~~with a view~~ to take action against them rioters ~~On this occasion~~ also ~~the mob~~ had flags & sticks - ~~when the Police~~ were sent to meet them ~~the former~~ that they were ~~menacing~~ ~~manoeuvring~~ ~~and~~ ~~bugles & drums~~ ~~sent to make arrests~~ ~~assembled~~ a mob collected in the streets, but

~~more~~

11

more than half of them were Hindus. They however dispersed & caused no further disturbance.

The mob appear to have contented themselves afterwards with looting, damage to telegraph posts & wire and other excesses, but effective steps were taken to prevent their being reinforced by the Mahomedans of Siddaghatta who were expected to join them, and on receipt of telegraphic information of the occurrence Silledars & Policemen were sent to Chickballapur from Bagalur and Kolar on the same day (the 17th inst.) and they were on the spot the next day. About 120 arrests were made by the 19th and 30 of the rioters who took part in the disturbances of the 16th evening were at once tried by the Deputy Commr and Dist Magte of Kolar and sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment on the 20th idem. The cases against the other rioters are under trial and on the termination of the proceedings a further report will be made.

I am glad the cases have since been committed by the Sub Dn Officer.

11

11

General

Give information about No. & dates of arrests

& trial & punishments.

The inhabitants of Chickballapur & Siddaghatta & other Talukas showed, like the people of other places were labouring

under a deep seated
~~prejudice~~ prejudice agt
Segregation & Other Plague
Measures; and they labored
under a gross misapprehension
of the effect of these measures.
In spite of the best efforts of local officials,
it was for a time impossible to disabuse
them of a belief that the Govt were
~~intent~~ making deliberate plans both for
poisoning all sources of water Supply
and for introducing the Plague
in all parts of the County by Measures.
of ~~the~~ a process of inoculation
The mass who resented by open acts of
Violence belonged to the lowest Class
of Society, but the better informed Class
— who ~~shared~~ themselves disliked the Plague Measures &
policies of Govt — were only too glad
(Even if they did not actively assist in the
& acts of Violence), ~~to do that of~~
~~Obstruction to all Plague Measures~~

28/12/94

~~Of Plague Opposition~~
of ~~Parsis~~ the hostility of their
Neighbours to Plague Measures of
Whatsoever Kind -

13

Extracts from Correspondence

Deputy Commissioner's D.O. of 12th November 1898 to Plague Commissioner -

From what I could judge they appears to have adopted a defensive attitude - Suspecting arrests -

The cause of riot is the usual and wide spread idea of suspecting Government Authorities of poisoning plague patients and water &c -

Inspector General's D.O. dated 16th November 1898, to Dewan -

The whole country sympathises with the lawlessness of the people of Ganjam in consequence of the dread felt for Segregation and other plague measures -

Plague Commissioner's D.O. dated 19th November 1898, to Dewan.

There was a Conspiracy among Ganjamites and the Astaram Villages as far as Mysore that every caste and every section should resist Government measures regarding the plague. Some days ago they took most sacred oaths not to desert their fellow men if Government should attempt to arrest them, but to rescue them at all hazards. The people really and sincerely believe and this belief is impossible to eradicate that Government have deliberately set about poisoning them. I hear that this belief was confirmed in their

already alarmed and
agitated minds by
the ~~tricks~~ played by
the great Augustus-

Sabol

So Lyon has had the
organization in the
hands suggested by the
Residency D.D.
to have had a combined
effort to abolish forth:
Magna Carta
1st-Solemnization of the
Show ignorance &
fear of being poisoned
& Dread of ——
Segregation &
2d- at Chick Collection
fear of being poisoned
by inoculation.
Nothing more — Still

× Augustus incident-

Secy

I am afraid we cant wait till Mr Rangaswami Iyengar can give me the written memo I asked him to send to Resident in reply.

Please draw up a brief memo for information you have in official & D.O. reports. (Latter in enclosed file as regards Ganjam)

Yours Sincerely

You may call for brief immediate official report regards organisation de at Chitra Ballapur -

? have recalled and for if 22/12/48

16

× Sent! Also D Chief & J.S.O as regards file by him & Finance Secy. Director - Conference of Ministers Ganjam Affairs

21/12/48 See the information to be given from Mr

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

Class

To

Station

From

Station

Monthly Local No

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.
51/2	10	14	20	

To (Person)

From (Person)

Section

File No 88-98

Serial No

(2)

(3)

Recruiting Lt. Colonel
reports that the following
persons enlisted Bengal
Cavalry Regiment are
entitled and proceeding
to their villages and
available for duty with
Bengal Sappers Miners
for the Rest Camp Jhansi

277

Recd. from L. N. At Hrs. Mts. By

Sent to L. N. At Hrs. Mts. By

Date

Postmaster.

RATES OF CHARGE FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS.

The address (including name of Sender and name and residence of Address) is transmitted free.

	First 8 words.	Each additional word.	
Deferred Message	8 Annas	1 Anna.	A group of 5, or less figures, is reckoned as one word.
Ordinary	1 Rupee	2 Annas.	
Urgent	2 Rupees	4 Annas.	

No charge for delivery within a distance of 5 Miles.

Please return
further letter
also
Saturday
Lunch
P.M.
10/11/46

POSTAGE DUE
JAN 13

INDIAN TELEGRAPH. Monthly Local No

To Station

From Station

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instruction.

To (Person)

From (Person)

Section
File No 188-98
Serial No

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

BANGALORE CENTRAL POST NO. 12 98

From	L. N.	Sent to	L. N.
	Mts. By	At Hrs.	Mts. By

RATES OF CHARGE FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS.

The address (including name of Sender, and name and residence of Addressee) is transmitted free.

	First 8 words.	Each additional word.
Deferred Message	8 Annas	1 Anna.
Ordinary	1 Rupee	2 Annas.
Urgent	2 Rupees	4 Annas.

A group of 3, or less figures, is reckoned as one word.

No charge for delivery within a distance of 5 Miles.

Cuttack 1 Division

12-11-7

INDIAN TELEGRAPH. Monthly Local No. 11

Station Bangalore (C.P.) From Station Bangalore 18

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instruction.
	1	11	4	

To (Person) From (Person)

Section Jan 1898
File No 2
Serial No 12

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14

BANGALORE T.S. NO. 12 98 CENTRAL POST

Recd. from L. N. Sent to L. N.

At Hrs. Mts. By At Hrs. Mts. By

Date *Postmaster.*

RATES OF CHARGE FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS.

The address (including name of Sender, and name and residence of Addressee) is transmitted free.

	First 8 words.	Each additional word.
Deferred Message	... 8 Annas	... 1 Anna.
Ordinary "	... 1 Rupee	... 2 Annas.
Urgent "	... 2 Rupees	... 4 Annas.

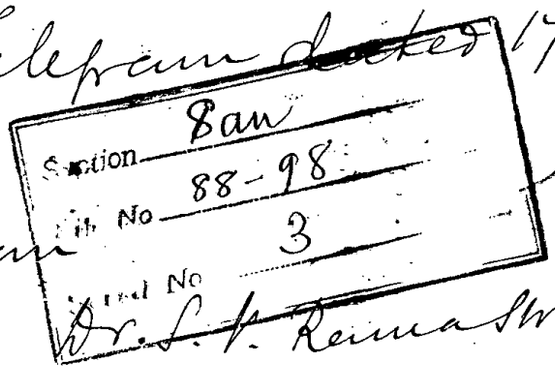
A group of 3, or less figures, is reckoned as one word.

No charge for delivery within a distance of 5 Miles.

Received & Returned
12-11-78

19

Telegram dated 17th November 1898.



From Dr. L. H. Reina Swamy Ayyangar's
Doddaballapur

To The Plague Commissioner
in Mysore

Regular riot this morning in Chickballapur. Was attacked beaten and robbed. To help Came. Retreated. Miraculously escaped death. Bangalore tonight.

Office of the Plague Commissioner
in Mysore

No. Dated Bangalore, 17th Nov 1898

Copy forwarded to C. Srikanta Swamy Ayyangar Esquire, for submission to the Dewan of Mysore.

P. Narasimha Rao.
for Plague Commissioner

Telegram dated 18th November 1898

Section Sam
File No 88-98
Serial No

From The Subdivision Officer
Chickballapur.

To The Plague Commissioner.

Silledars police arrived from Bangalore also Kolar police. Over hundred arrests since morning. More going on. Sam very quiet.

Office of the Plague Commr in Mysore
Dated Bangalore, 18th Nov 1898

Forwarded to C. Srikanteswara Iyer Esquire B.A., B.L., Asst Secretary to Govt of Mysore, for favor of Submission to the Dewan of Mysore

By order. K. Subba Rao
for Plague Comr

Class C. INDIAN TELEGRAPH. Monthly Log. No. 25

To Station Bangalore From Station Mysore Sh

Words	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instruction.
28	19	10	35	

To (Person) Sir M. Shashadri Esqr. Dewan

From (Person)

Section Sam
File No 88-98
Serial No 5

Dear Sir William Lawrence
Would that all
have thus all
been safely landed
Central Jail

Received from L. N. At Hrs. Mts. By

Sent to L. N. At Hrs. Mts. By

BANGALORE CITY JAN 19 98 POSTAL POST

Date

G T—No. 14 P O—14 5 98—40000.

Postmaster.

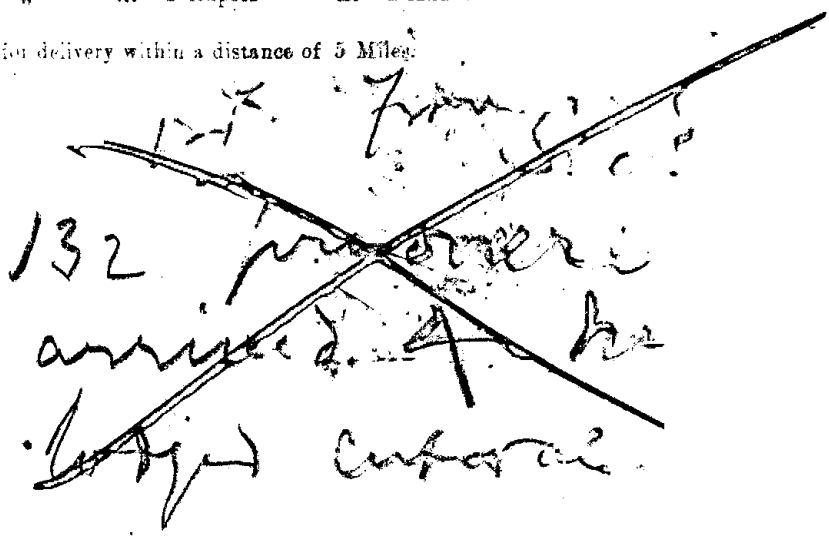
RATES OF CHARGE FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS.

The address (including name of Sender, and name and residence of Addressee) is transmitted free.

	First 8 words.	Each additional word.
Deferred Message	... 8 Annas	... 1 Anna.
Ordinary "	... 1 Rupee	... 2 Annas.
Urgent "	... 2 Rupees	... 4 Annas.

A group of 3, or less figures, is reckoned as one word.

No charge for delivery within a distance of 5 Miles.



Lonsyne
V. P. Madhavadas Urgent
P. C.

Bangalore
Secy to Govt—

"Sanjam prisoners arrived from this morning and lodged central jail."

69.11.98.

22

Mysore

3rd December 189

Dear Mr Srinivasiengar

Final reports in the Ganjam riots will be submitted today. Pleas obtain Dewan's orders to have the cases tried at Bangalore. I shall not recommend to fix any place in my District for the purpose. It is probable that the budmashes will make an attempt to rescue the accused if they are brought back to any station in my District. It is better to avoid it. Mr. Paramasiva Iyer has joined his duties. He may be appointed as Special Magistrate for trying these cases. There were two

Mr. Weir thinks this punishment is enough for not bringing the matter at once to the notice of the Superintendent.

Hoping you are well,

Yours Sincerely

Sd C. Madiah.

Vb

Affidavit of the Inspector General of Police in Support of an application under Section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for ordering the trial of the Ganjam Riots cases at Bangalore.

Sets forth: -

I That the accused persons in these cases were arrested under great opposition and in the midst of much local excitement.

II They were forwarded to the Central jail, Bangalore for safe custody owing to want of space and in order to prevent a rescue.

III Their return to the Mysore District for undergoing trial, will be unsafe and inexpedient.

IV The ends of justice will be better served if their trial is allowed to take place at Bangalore.

I, A. Rangasamy Iyengar,

Inspector General of Police, state on Solemn affirmation that the statements set forth above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Section 88-98
File No